

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 125361 TOSEC 130117

61

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN:MAR

APPROVED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

S/-O:LMACFARLANE

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P 212137Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 125361 TOSEC 130117

EXDIS FOR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 2709 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA
21 MAY

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2709

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US SA UR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

1. PRIME MINISTER RIFAI CALLED ME EVENING MARCH 20. TOLD ME THAT
"LONG AWAITED" SAUDI LETTER HAS FINALLY ARRIVED. IT IS
HE SAID "SHORT AND SWEET".

2. THEN READ ME WHAT HE SAID WAS QUICK LITERAL TRANSLATION.
LETTER GOES APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS: WE HAVE FELT FROM THE
UNITED STATES SIDE CONCERN THAT THEY PROVIDE YOU WITH AN AIR
DEFENSE SYSTEM. THE UNITED STATES IS IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH
YOUR MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT REGARDING THIS MATTER. WE WISH
TO REITERATE OUR PRIOR COMMITMENT, WHICH WE WILL CARRY OUT,

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WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN OUR LAST LETTER. WITH BEST WISHES, ETC

3. RIFAI SAID THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY JORDANIAN REPLY, ALTHOUGH THERE IS " A FATAL FASCINATION" IN CONTINUING TO EXCHANGE THESE "USELESS LETTERS". HE THEN LAUGHED AND SAID "I GUESS WE HAVE TO LAUGH AND BE PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT ALL OF THIS". "THIS IS REALLY THE END" HE ADDED.

4. I SAID I WAS NOT AS HE KNEW SURPRISED BY LETTER. I THANKED HIM FOR THE REPORT AND SAID I WOULD LET WASHINGTON KNOW. PICKERING
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

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